



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

Jeffrey A. Taylor  
United States Attorney

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Two Columbia Heights Men Found Guilty of Murdering a Witness and Obstruction of Justice for Attempted Silencing of Witnesses**

*--Jury also finds second defendant guilty of two additional homicides, including one of another witness--*

WASHINGTON - Two District men, Ronald Marquet Cheadle and Azariah Israel, were found guilty today of multiple charges for their roles in a conspiracy to obstruct justice by silencing witnesses to murders, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced.

After more than two months of trial, a Superior Court jury this morning found Cheadle, 28, formerly of the 2600 of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, D.C., guilty of Armed Robbery, Attempted Armed Robbery, Felony Murder and related weapons counts for the September 2002 murder of Asheile George in the 600 block of Kenyon Street, NW. Cheadle was also found guilty of First Degree Premeditated Murder for the March 2003 killing of Elias Atkins inside of an apartment at 1414 V Street, NW. The jury also concluded that Cheadle killed Atkins to prevent him from providing information to law enforcement about the 2002 murder and robbery of Asheile George.

Cheadle and Israel, 33, formerly of the Columbia Heights neighborhood of northwest Washington, D.C., were also found guilty of Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice by silencing additional witnesses and Obstruction of Justice. Both men were further found guilty of the October 2004 murder of Pierre Johnson. The jury found that this murder was intended to prevent Mr. Johnson from testifying further against defendant Cheadle.

Cheadle, who used the nick-name of Marquet, and Israel, who used the nick-name of Head, terrorized the Clifton Street neighborhood of Northwest Washington, D.C. United States Attorney Taylor stated that this prosecution was instrumental in securing the safety of witnesses and in addressing horrendous, callous murders.

Both defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on June 5, 2009, before Judge Frederick H. Weisberg. Both face a maximum penalty of life imprisonment without parole.

In announcing today's verdict, United States Attorney Taylor commended the tenacity and perseverance of Major Case/Cold Case Detectives Mitchell Credle, Darryl Richmond, Jeff Owens, Anthony Brigidini and Carlos Hilliard for working diligently and deliberately in investigating this case. He also commended the work of MPD Detectives Harbin Combe and Michael Fulter, as well as Officers Kevin Jeter, Ridley Durham and Keith Slaughter Of the Mobile Crime Unit; the U.S. Marshals Service; Intel Analyst Larry Grasso, Investigator Christopher Brophy, Legal Assistant Mary Doster, Paralegal Alesha Matthews, and Litigation Support Technician Thomas (Ron) Royal of the U.S. Attorney's Office; as well as Assistant U.S. Attorneys Charles Cobb, James McGovern, Denise Cheung, Laura Bach, and Matthew Cohen who were all involved in the investigation and prosecution during the early phases of these cases. Finally, Mr. Taylor further commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Deborah Sines and Amanda Haines for trying these cases.

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